

Strategic Planning Clients

Arizona Western College, AZ

Buena Vista University, IA

East Central College, MO

Harford Community College, MD

Holyoke Community College, MA

Jefferson Community College, NY

Macomb Community College, MI

San Juan College, NM

Tacoma Community College, WA

Waubonsee Community College, IL

Arizona Western College Partners with CampusWorks to Plan for the Future

The Challenge

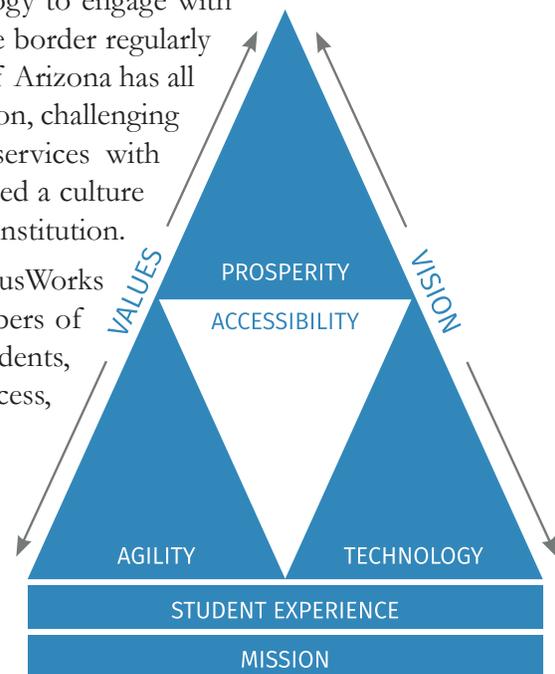
When Dr. Daniel Corr assumed the presidency at Arizona Western College (AWC) in July 2016, he quickly realized that in order to continue building on the College's success they would need a strategic plan to clarify the institution's goals and provide a sense of direction. Research into successful strategic planning at other institutions followed by a request for proposal (RFP) led the College to partner with CampusWorks to facilitate the process.

The Partnership

CampusWorks' strategic planning methodology employs an inclusive, transparent approach that tailors the effort to the institution's unique culture, interests, and demands. One of the many characteristics that makes Arizona Western College unique is its close proximity to the Mexican border. With 10 locations spread across 10,000 square miles that serve both Yuma and La Paz counties in southern Arizona, a percentage of the College's employees and students are impacted by the U.S.-Mexico border and rely on technology to engage with classes and colleagues or travel across the border regularly to reach campus. Additionally, the state of Arizona has all but eliminated funding for higher education, challenging AWC to deliver more student-centric services with fewer resources. These factors have created a culture of commitment that is not seen at every institution.

Over the course of 13 months, CampusWorks brought together more than 2,600 members of the AWC community, including 200 students, to develop a shared vision of student success, which is characterized by:

- A connected community within which students are encouraged, challenged, and feel they belong;
- Programs developed and aligned with employment opportunities;
- A clear path to success and completion;
- Flexible, accessible services, and learning approaches;
- Contemporary technology that supports and enhances the AWC experience.



President Corr recognized technology as the great enabler for achieving this vision and saw the immediate need to modernize the College's IT infrastructure and optimize the IT organization to align with the institution's goals. To achieve this, the College needed a transformative technology leader, and CampusWorks' role expanded to mentor the College's CIO to lead this important undertaking. Ultimately, that individual departed the College, and CampusWorks stepped in as interim CIO to lead the transformation.

CampusWorks' CIO hit the ground running and quickly discovered that the College's IT team, comprised of 24 technologists, was operating in a reactive mode, spending a significant amount of time putting out fires. Further investigation revealed they were spread too thin, attempting to manage over 100 different projects simultaneously. CampusWorks' CIO immediately began condensing, prioritizing, and clarifying their project list to help the team operate more efficiently and effectively. This work was augmented by an IT assessment, during which CampusWorks' assessment team evaluated the College's existing infrastructure and security posture and developed a plan to modernize and strengthen them.

CampusWorks' CIO spent time with each member of the IT team to learn about their skills and experiences, which was then used to implement a new staffing model that aligned their strengths with the institution's goals. This increased focus and alignment sparked a cultural shift within the IT organization, transforming it to one in which team members have each other's backs, celebrate victories, and take a proactive approach.

Results

Though our partnership began as a strategic planning engagement, it has yielded so much more than a strategic plan; it helped incite transformation that is already producing real results and will position Arizona Western College to support student success for years to come.

Over the course of our partnership, CampusWorks has helped AWC:

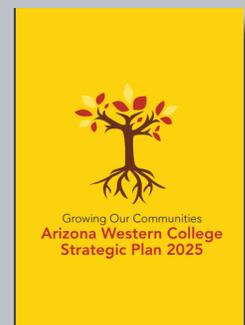
- ✓ Bring together more than 2,600 members of the AWC community, including 200 students, to develop a shared vision of student success.
- ✓ Gain a better understanding of the College's technology challenges and develop a plan for resolving them.
- ✓ Transform the IT organization to improve service delivery and align with the institution's goals.

Need help with strategic planning? Contact CampusWorks today for a free, no-strings-attached consultation.

"From the first visit on our campus, [CampusWorks] has engendered confidence, excitement, and energy in our workforce and community partners to help create the beginnings of an authentic and credible Strategic Plan...When you hire Campus Works, you are getting the aggregate of the many thoughtful projects they've helped launch across the country."

- Dr. Daniel Corr

President, Arizona Western College



Read
*Growing Our Communities:
Arizona Western College
Strategic Plan 2025*

azwestern.edu/office-of-the-president/strategic-planning